

Appl. No. 10/667,405
Amdt. Dated 05 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 02 27, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] In a second aspect, the present invention provides a cover for use with a container having suitable means for growing the at least one plant variety accessible to animals for grazing, the cover dimensioned for suitable use with the container, the cover having a plurality of openings being dimensioned to form a passageway for the at least one plant variety growing through the plurality of openings while the cover preventing a limb from an animal from entering through any one of the plurality of openings.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0013]:

[0013.1] **FIGURE 1** is a perspective view of a cover for use with a grazing container according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

[0013.2] **FIGURE 2** is a perspective view of a cover for use with a grazing container according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

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Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] **FIGURE 13** is an exploded perspective view of ~~at~~the cover of **FIGURE 2** and a grazing container suitable for use with the cover in accordance with a another first embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] **FIGURE 24** is an exploded perspective view of ~~at~~the cover of **FIGURE 2** and a grazing container with a removable growing tray in accordance with a another second embodiment of the present invention;

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] **FIGURE 35** is a perspective view of a cover according to ~~a second embodiment~~ of the present invention where the cover is attached to the container through uses of a hinges and a locking mechanism in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention; and

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] **FIGURE 46** is a perspective view of an embodiment of a cover of the present invention placed over a grazing container where grass is growing therethrough.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Referring to FIGURES 1-4, shows a cover 5 of the present invention for use with a container 10 is shown. The container 10 has a base end 15 and four side walls 20a, 20b, 20c, 20d, for growing therein a plant variety, such as grass. The cover 5 has a frame 25 and a grid surface 30. The frame 25 supports the grid surface 30. It should be noted that in an embodiment of the present invention, the cover 5 may not include a frame 25, as shown in FIGURE 1. The grid surface 30 is important in that there is a plurality of openings 35 dimensioned for the purposes of the present invention. The grid

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surface 30 is made of suitable material, such as a metal, to withstand the weight of a small animal on the cover 5.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] In **FIGURE 13**, the cover 5 is shown with a frame 25 having side walls which are dimensioned to mate with the corresponding four side walls 20a, 20b, 20c, 20d of the container 10. While there is no locking device shown, the present invention may further include an attachment means, such as hinges, or a locking mechanism, well known in the art, to permanently attach the cover 5 to the container 10. The locking mechanism would be useful in preventing a small animal from removing the cover 5 after it has been placed over the container 10. The openings 35 in the grid surface 30 are dimensioned to enable grass such as oats, rye, or some other member of the grass family, to grow through the openings 35. The cover 5 also has a large opening 40 dimensioned to allow a person to extend his or her finger through the large opening 40 to feel the growing medium for moisture content. Yet, the large opening 40 must be dimensioned small enough to prevent limbs, such as a paw, from extending through the large opening 40 to pull on the grass.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] In a further embodiment, **FIGURE 24** illustrates a removable growing tray 42 placed within the container 10. The growing medium and grass seeds could be placed in the removable growing tray 42 rather than directly within the container 10. If the container 10 were made of materials such as wood, the removal of soil would be difficult. The use of a removable growing tray 42 is advantageous in that it facilitates the cleaning of the container 10.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] In an alternative embodiment, the cover 5 may be a grid that extends over, or along, the side walls of the container. **FIGURE 35** shows a modified cover 5a having a

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modified grid surface 30a which extends beyond the side walls of the container 10. The grid surface 30a does not have a frame 25, as in **FIGURE 1**. The cover 5a is attached to the container 10 through use of two hinges 45a, 45b. While hinges 45a, 45b are shown in **FIGURE 35**, screws, latches, or the like, may be utilized by the present invention. There is also shown a locking mechanism 50 for locking the cover 5a to the container 10. The locking mechanism 50 is useful in preventing small animals from removing or lifting the cover 5a.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] **FIGURE 46** illustrates a cover 5 of the present invention placed over a grazing container (not clearly shown) where grass 60 is growing through the plurality of openings 35 in the grid surface 30.